

REMARKS

Claims 2-5 and 7-11 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 6 have been canceled.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 4, 5, 6, and 8-11 have been objected to because of some informalities.

Claims 1 and 6 have been canceled.

Other claims have been amended, as suggested by the Examiner, to overcome these objections.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

(a) Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, because the specification does not conform to the enablement requirement.

Claim 4 has been amended to further define that the molded article of a gas generating agent includes guanidine nitrate, basic copper nitrate, carboxymethyl cellulose sodium salt, and aluminum hydroxide, and has a combustion temperature of about 1200 to 1700°C.

This limitation is clearly supported by the statements in page 20, lines 12-16 of the specification. The specification, which also specifies the amount of each substance to be used in the molded article of a gas generating agent, enables any person skilled in the art to determine the composition of the molded article of a gas generating agent without undue experiment.

(b) Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, because the specification does not conform to the enablement requirement.

Claim 5 has been amended to further define that the molded article of a gas generating agent includes nitroguanidine, strontium nitrate, and carboxymethyl cellulose sodium salt, and has a combustion temperature of about 2200°C.

This limitation is clearly supported by the statements in page 20, lines 24-27 of the specification. The specification, which also specifies the amount of each substance to be used in the molded article of a gas generating agent, enables any person skilled in the art to determine the composition of the molded article of a gas generating agent without undue experiment.

(c) Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, because the specification does not conform to the enablement requirement.

Claim 6 has been canceled to overcome this rejection.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

(a) Claims 1 and 3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogawa et al. (USP 6,860,510) in view of Taylor et al. (US 2003/0145922A1). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been canceled.

Claim 3 has been amended to depend from claim 2, which includes allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, claim 3, dependent on claim 2, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 2.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(b) Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taguchi et al. (USP 6,485,051) in view of Taylor. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 6 have been canceled.

Claims 3, 5, and 10 have been amended to depend from claim 2, which includes allowable subject matter, to place them in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(c) Claims 4 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taguchi in view of Taylor, in further view of Mendenhall et al. (USP 6,143,102). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4 and 7, variously dependent on claim 2, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 2, 8, 9, and 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 2, 8, 9, and 11 have been amended to include all of the limitations of base claim 1 to place them in condition for allowance.

A favorable determination by the Examiner and allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

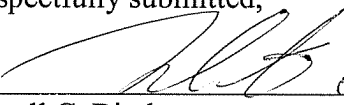
Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and objections, and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi Reg. No. 40,417 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

for By  (reg. # 40,417)
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